

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090970
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON:JY
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-----231414Z 095050 /47

R 221701Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: WOODCOCK LETTER TO NOUPHAN SITHPHASAY

REF: VIENTIANE 752

AS REQUESTED REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAGE 16 OF
WOODCOCK COMMISSION REPORT:

TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION AND REMAINS FROM THE LAO
DURING ITS VISIT, THE COMMISSION FEELS THE TRIP WAS WORTH-
WHILE IN THAT IT SET A NEW TONE FOR U.S.-LAO RELATIONS,
EMPHASIZED TO THE LAO THE IMPORTANCE WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH
TO THE MIA ISSUE, AND HELPED ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR
OBTAINING FURTHER INFORMATION. ONE PRESS REPORT AFTER
THE COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTURE INDICATED THAT THE LAO WERE
SETTING UP A COMMITTEE TO SEARCH FOR INFORMATION, THOUGH
THIS COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED AT TIME OF WRITING.

V. CAMBODIA
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DUE TO THE CURRENT LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE U.S.
AND THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE APPARENT UNSETTLED
SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH, THE COMMISSION DECIDED IT WAS
BEST NOT TO TRY TO GO TO THE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL. INSTEAD,
IT WAS DECIDED TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A CONTACT WITH AN
AMBASSADOR OF DEMOCRATIC CAMBODIA AT A LOCATION IN

SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT WAS HOPED THAT SHOULD SUCH A MEETING BE POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT FIRST STEP TOWARD OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH THIS NEW GOVERNMENT, THUS POSSIBLY IMPROVING OUR CHANCES OF OBTAINING INFORMATION ON THOSE MISSING OR KILLED IN CAMBODIA, INCLUDING THE 25 JOURNALISTS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES (FOUR OF WHOM ARE AMERICANS). A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING DELIVERED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR SUCH A MEETING TO THE DEMOCRATIC CAMBODIA EMBASSY IN PEKING.

ON MARCH 19 RADIO PHNOM PENH CARRIED THE TEXT OF A PRESS COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUSING OUR REQUEST AND HURLING HARSH INVECTIVE AT THE U.S. (THE TEXT IS ATTACHED). THE COMMISSION THEREFORE WAS UNABLE TO MEET WITH ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT AND WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PEOPLE MISSING OR KILLED THERE

VI. PRESS

AMERICAN MEDIA VIEWED THE COMMISSION'S TRIP AS A MAJOR NEWS EVENT, THE MIA ISSUE WAS STILL GENERATING WIDE-SPREAD INTEREST, THE PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION REFLECTED A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN AFFAIRS INITIATIVE, AND A VISIT TO HANOI, THE FIRST BY AMERICAN NEWSMEN IN FIVE YEARS, OFFERED OBVIOUS HUMAN INTEREST ANGLES.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: MIA, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, PFOR, LA, US, (WOODCOCK, LEONARD), (NOUPHAN SITHPHASAY)
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